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**Newsletter**

**Number 03**

**19 February 2010**



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

**Thanks**

.. to the wonderful parents who supported this week's Year 5 & 6 camp.  
.. our PMP helpers  
.. Jo Bruncker, Sue Mehrtens and Sharon Martin for offering to assist with swimming heats next week  
.. Kathy who this week spoke very kindly about Matarau School on The Edge Radio. Your comments were reported back to us and are very much appreciated.

**People of the week**

.. our camp parents  
.. Mrs Witte and Miss Bevin for efforts during, and over the many months running up to, this week's camp.  
.. Olivia for bringing her awesome smile to school every day.  
.. Tylar for showing care and consideration to a pre-schooler before school this week.

**PMP**

We would really appreciate further offers to assist with this important programme. If able to help please give Mrs Robertson a call. PMP takes place every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon - even if you can help on one of these afternoons it enables us to give existing parent helpers an occasional break.

**Swimming Heats**

You will note above that we have 3 parents who have volunteered to help with timing of swimming heats on Mon 22 and Tues 23. We would appreciate additional offers and so if able to help please phone Kevin first thing on Monday morning. Usually wrapped up by late morning.  
*Parents of year 3 children who would like their children to participate in the competitive races at our school swimming sports (as opposed to the usual junior water confidence activities) are asked to advise phone Kevin Monday before school - we will then include these children in the time trials.*

**think... SOLD!**

think yellow,  
think...

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### What's on In Rooms This Term?

On Wednesday 24 February 3 meetings will be held to better inform you about organisation, routines, expectations, timetables, major units of work, significant events etc. in your child's class this term/year. You are encouraged to attend these meetings and will get a chance to ask any questions of a general nature.

Meeting times and locations are as follows:

***Middle Syndicate*** (Rooms 5 to 9) 6:30 pm in room 7 (Mrs Burgin's room)

***Junior Syndicate*** (Rooms 1 to 4) 7:15 pm in room 1 (Library)

***Senior Syndicate*** (Rooms 10 to 12) 8:00 pm in room 12 (Mr D's room)

We hope you can set aside the time to attend these meetings.

### School Contributions / Trips and Events Fee

A reminder to get payment to the office at your nearest convenience. If you have opted for term payments, then Term 1 is due now, the balance will be invoiced early in Term 2. If you are feeling financially stretched at the moment you are invited to contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements.

### Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)

The above are scheduled for 1 and 2 March - an interview booking sheet accompanied last week's newsletter. Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. While syndicate discussions are an opportunity to talk about matters of a general nature, **conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets (now a legal requirement under the new National Standards).** This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

If you did not receive an interview booking form last week please drop by or give the office a call. You will receive advice of your appointment time early next week. Remember that interview times are allocated on a first in basis.

### Indicator Reports

At Matarau School parents receive three hard copy reports throughout the year ..

|                            | When ..           | Updated by ..              | Brief description  |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <b>An Indicator Report</b> | Beginning of year | .. previous year's teacher | Based on predetermined achievement indicators / benchmarks in Reading, Writing and Mathematics |
| <b>A Data Report</b>       | Mid year          | .. current year's teacher  | Most up to date achievement data - mainly number based - tables show performance over time.    |
| <b>A Summative Report</b>  | End of year       | .. current year's teacher  | Summary statements of achievement across all learning areas based on multiple sources of info. |

The first of these reports (The Indicator Report) will be **sent home next Friday** along with a target setting sheet (My Learner Journey). Parents are asked to ..

.. read over the Indicator Report(s) with their child(ren)

.. identify one area in maths, one in reading and one in writing for special focus in the first half year (or an alternative focus at your discretion)

.. complete the first two columns in the Learner Journey sheet (in pencil)

.. bring the Indicator Report and Learner Journey Sheet to conferences ( 1 and 2 March)

Please contact at any stage if you have questions or need assistance. More to follow!

### International Schools English and Maths Competitions

We will shortly be calling for expressions of interest in the above programmes. Perhaps give some thought in the meantime to whether or not your child might benefit from inclusion in either or both of these competitions. If you are not sure of your child's suitability for these programmes please feel free to further discuss with Kevin or their classroom teacher.

### Homework

Homework is **encouraged but optional** at Matarau School. For most children this will mean 4 nights homework a week (around 20 minutes each night) with most of this time spent on word learning, maths basic facts and reading, with one activity related to their class programme. Parents should feel free to advise

their child's teacher if the load needs to be lightened for any reason or if they wish their child excused from homework altogether. This saves tension and time wasted chasing homework. **If you do NOT want your child to receive homework please advise their teacher NEXT week.** If you are on board please set a regular time and place and advise us if we can help with any "speed wobbles" along the way. Let's start as we mean to continue by getting routines well established.

*(Although the research is a little inconclusive we believe that regular homework routines lead to better performance and a better preparation for secondary school for most children).*

### **Tennis Doubles and Cricket Tournaments**

Good luck to those students participating in these events as follows ..

.. Tennis Doubles - 24 February .. Year 7 and 8 Cricket - 25 Feb. .. Year 5 and 6 Cricket - 26 Feb.

A reminder that parents are responsible for supervision and transport to and from the venue. Don't forget sun block, Matarau T-shirts, lunch and plenty of fluids. Any questions to Mr D please. **We are several cars short for transport and so, if able to help, please give Scotty a call on Monday morning.**

### **Pool Keys**

The pool is available for public use. Hire keys are available from the school office at \$25 per family for the 2010 swimming season. Those who held their key last year in anticipation of using again this year received an invoice two weeks back. **Please send the money in asap or return your key please so that we can make this available to another user. Many thanks.**

### **Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School - 4.3 (pp 5.3)**

Qualifying children will receive consents for this event on 25 February **for return the following day.** Attendance for qualifying children (based on timed heats here at school) is optional but encouraged. If your child misses the qualifying heats and you would like them to attend this event, no promises, but please give Mr Delemare a call. Updates to follow.

### **School Swimming Sports - 10.3**

Our School Swimming Sports takes place Wednesday 10 March (pp 11.3) and so you might like to pencil this in to your diaries. Events run most of the day culminating in a junior demonstration, relays and acknowledgements at the end of the day. You, and extended family, are invited to share this day with us - more details to follow.

*The sponsor for the Swimming Sports is  
Michele Blagrove with Maggie Dixon Real Estate*

### **Term Headlice Inspection**

.. Will be held on Friday 26 February with a follow up the following week. Thank you to those parents who have volunteered their time and assistance. We have been advised of infestation in at least one class and so suggest that all parents check, treat and then check weekly thereafter. Thanks.

### **My Career Books**

We know how often parents misplace reports, school photographs etc. and these books could be a handy place to store these. Although these are \$22, this is a one off purchase, covering schooling through to year 13. While we included these on stationery lists for year 1 and 2 children, parents are most welcome to purchase these for older children for whom they are just as relevant. **There is a limited supply of these and they cannot be purchased anywhere else - if you would like to view a sample portfolio please drop by the school office.**

### **After School Care**

All users of this programme are asked to register please. This can be done on line by visiting [www.skids.co.nz](http://www.skids.co.nz) or alternatively by checking in with the programme manager here at school before the start of ASC (we also now have forms at the school office). The standard of this programme has been significantly upgraded and **large WINZ subsidies** are available to most users. Children complete set activities, have supervised and assisted homework, a healthy afternoon tea and other extras. Parents of children who travel on the bus into town may want to consider placing their children from 3:00 to 4:00 as they would arrive home having had their afternoon tea, burnt off some energy, with their homework completed. We hope parents will make full use of this programme to help ensure it is sustainable. Brochures are available from the school office.

## **Bible in Schools programme**

If you are able to dedicate 30 minutes or so on a Monday morning to join the Bible in Schools teaching team please contact Carina Wykes on 435 0911.

**Children who did not participate in this programme last year will continue to be provided with supervised work.** Please contact your child's teacher with any special requests - this could be valuable time to do extra work in an area of need. **Parents may opt in or out (preferably within 2 or 3 weeks of commencement of the programme)** and offers from parents to facilitate an alternative programme at this time will be considered by the Board.

## **After School Care 2009**

We have been advised that a number of parents who used the A.S.C. programme in 2009 have not paid fees for services provided in term 4 of last year in spite of numerous requests for payment. We encourage these parents to forward payment to Karina as soon as possible or to give her a call if their invoice was not received or has been misplaced.

## **Community Notices**

**Found** - Black, young, male dog with white chest. Sunday on Matarau Rd. Ph 433 5530.

**Lost** - Bright green Tupperware lunchbox - please return to Paddy, room 5.

**Kittens** - Free to a good home. Phone 433 5032.

**For Sale** - Good quality firewood. \$50 per 6x4 trailer. Ph Neroli 433 8185.

**Bingo Fundraising Evening** - Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 7.00pm, Whangarei Rock N Roll Club, \$5 per ticket. Music and supper provided. For more info ph Michelle on 438 6808.

**Tennis Open Day** - Sunday 14 Feb 1.00-4.00pm, Mairtown Tennis Club. For more info see [www.tennisnz.com](http://www.tennisnz.com)

**Allens Kids Triathlon** - Sunday 14 March, Onerahi. Enter Online now. [www.allens.co.nz](http://www.allens.co.nz)

**Tikipunga AFC Junior Rally** - Registration Date 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 4.00-6.00 and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 9.00-11.00. All players welcome. Tikipunga Sports Grounds, Reed St. Enquiries please contact Jan on 0275444611 or 4343236.

**Kamo Girls' Brigade** - Meeting Monday evenings 6-8pm at St Paul's Church Centre. Girls and young women between 5-18 yrs welcome. For more info contact Brenda Smith 4370821 or Sheryn Comrie (4335756)

**St Johns Youth Programme** - Teaching aged 6-18 first aid, healthcare, leadership and life skills. Re-opening February. For more information check out [www.stjohnyouth.org.nz](http://www.stjohnyouth.org.nz) or phone 0800 785 646.

**Family Works** - Presents Strengthening Step Families, a six week programme designed to better understand & manage step families and Parenting through Separation, a 2 week programme aimed at parents helping their children after separation. For more info contact Family Works, Genesis Centre, 4376729.

**Kamo / Kauri Soccer Registration** - If your child is between 5 and 11 and you would like them to join a Kamo affiliated team just turn up at Kauri School on Wednesday 24 Feb 3:00 to 3:30 or phone Annette Hayes on 435 5106 - kauri fielded 8 highly successful teams last year. If you want to play for a Kauri team do not turn up to the Kamo Soccer Registration Day.

**Tall Poppies Seminars** - for Gifted and Talented kids. Auckland 7 to 9 April. Visit [www.holidayseminars.co.nz](http://www.holidayseminars.co.nz)

## **Guitar Lessons**

There are still a number of vacancies in this popular after school programme (in the Old School Room - by the upper car park). Cost \$20 per lesson. Vangie has a spare guitar for kids trying out. If interested please phone Vangie on 434 7573 or 021 1883251, or email [killalea@ihug.co.nz](mailto:killalea@ihug.co.nz)

## **Newsletter**

Remember to ask your child for the newsletter each Friday afternoon. Our newsletter (along with archived copies) can also be accessed on our website or **emailed to you on request (just contact Helen to arrange this)**. If you have questions from time to time just give us a call - we NEVER mind answering these.

## **Board Election**

The closing date for nominations is 23 April and polling day is 7 May. If interested in serving on our board and wanting to discuss with someone please contact Kevin, an existing Board Member or Donna Cates (our returning officer).

## **Lunches**

We are mightily impressed by the quality of lunches most of our children bring to school - well done parents. From time to time we are asked by parents to ensure that their children eat a good portion of their lunch. While we do not ask children to eat all of their lunch, we usually ask them to eat most of it, allowing one or

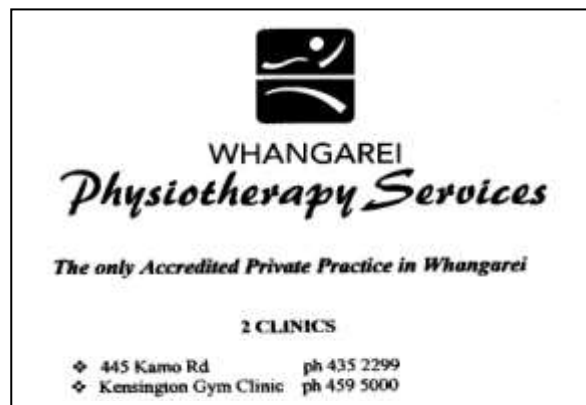
two items to be left over at their discretion. What we have noticed is that some children are tending to eat their pre-packed and processed food first while leaving their sandwiches and fruit uneaten. From next week we will be asking children to eat their sandwiches and fruit first before eating pre-packaged food. Let us know how this goes at your end and please advise if it creates any problems.

### Final thought

*"All the things we achieve are things we have first of all imagined."* David Malouf 1934 Australian writer.

Regards  
Kevin Trehwella  
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your  
children, please support them



## PTA EVENTS



### PTA Family Picnic & Swim Evening at school Friday 5 March

Start time - 6.00pm - BYO (No alcohol allowed)

Bring your own picnic food, picnic blanket and togs

This is a great chance to mix with and meet other school families,  
and let the kids have a swim outside school hours.

*Families with children starting school soon are welcome too.  
(If you know of a family starting school please invite them for us)*



## Trail Bike Ride Fundraiser

Todate there have been no offers of help to co-ordinate the event, we will have to *cancel the ride* if no-one can step forward by Monday. Greg Lovell has very kindly okayed the use of his farm again this year. Simon Mehrtens and his team are happy to set up the track. **HOWEVER** – we need a **VOLUNTEER** to organise the remainder of the event – such as signs, ambulance, food, toilets, ticketing, advertising and insurance. Sue Mehrtens is happy to advise. This event raises between \$6-8000pa.

Please call Mary Sissons – tel 433 5156 if you think you can help in any way.



## National 4x4 Club Rally Day

Lovell's Farm, Lovell Rd, Matarau  
Sunday 21st February 2010 – THIS WEEKEND

We still need helpers to cook, sell sausages, steak and drinks,  
contact Mary on 433 5156 or Cherie on 437 1327 or 027 437 1057